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Voluntary - Public

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## Jordan

**Post:** Amman

### Jordan's Beef Import Requirements

**Report Categories:**

Livestock and Products

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**Report Highlights:**

The Jordanian Ministry of Agriculture (MoA) has upgraded its trust level in the U.S. safety measures and health assurance. Minter of Agriculture issued a decree stating that the only requirement for any U.S. beef shipment is that it should be only accompanied by an FSIS health certificate.

**General Information:**

The Jordanian Ministry of Agriculture (MoA) has recently agreed to endorse (“accredit”) the USDA/Food Safety Inspection Service’s (FSIS) health certificate for imports of U.S. beef. Officially, the MoA had asked the Foreign Agricultural Service (FAS) office to provide a sample of an FSIS health certificate to have it accredited by MoA and to be used as a reference for Jordanian authorities to determine the safety of imported U.S. beef products.

In March 2006, the MoA banned all U.S. beef products from entering the country based on a bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE) case in Alabama. FAS engaged in relentless negotiations with Jordanian authorities to convince them that the U.S. system in place is an effective one. The negotiations reached a point where the GOJ officials agreed to allow only lean cuts from cows under 30 months with all nervous tissues and bones removed.

In 2008, FAS nominated the director of the Trade Agreement Unit of the MOA to attend a Department of State’s International Visitor Program in the United States. Upon his return Jordan, he became actively engaged in resolving the U.S. beef access problem until he managed to convince GOJ authorities to remove many conditions on the U.S. beef. However, some trade barriers still existed because of the BSE stigma.

In 2009, FAS nominated the head of the division of import licenses of the MOA to attend a Cochran program in October 2009. Upon her return, she embraced the cause to remove major barriers to U.S. beef trade based on what she saw and what she learned during her training program.

In Mid May, 2010 a trader experienced a problem with his consolidated shipment of various meats. These problems were based on non-scientific reasons. He sought the help of the FAS Amman office. FAS engaged in direct negotiations with the MoA with full support of Embassy Amman’s Economic section. On June 16, 2010, with direct involvement of the Cochran graduate, the Minister of Agriculture issued a decree stating that the only requirement for any U.S. beef shipment is that it should be only accompanied by an FSIS health certificate.

The Ministry of Agriculture upgraded its trust level in the U.S. safety measures and health assurance through MoA experts’ participations in the FAS training programs and other USG exchange and training programs. Although the Jordanian market is not big, Jordan’s trust of U.S. food safety standards and practices should be looked at as a model for other countries to follow.

